

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 994

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: GENERAL MENDOZA TO ATTEND NICARGUA INAUGURATION IN DECEMBER

1. IN REGULAR FRIDAY PRESS CONFERENCE (NOV 8) FONMINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY COLLADOS ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL (OF CARABINEROS, THE NATIONAL UNIFORMED POLICE) CESAR MENDOZ DURAN, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING JUNTA, WILL HEAD CHILEAN DELEGATION TO NICARAGUAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN DECEMBER.

2. COMMENT. ONLY TRAVEL ABROAD BY THE JUNTA'S FOUR MEMBERS SINCE SEPT 1973 COUP HAS BEEN CHIEF OF STATE GEN. PINOCHET'S TRIP TO BRAZIL IN MARCH FOR GEISEL INAUGURATION AND TO PARAGUAY IN JUNE FOR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, AND VISIT OF AIR FORCE GEN. LEIGH TO PERU IN JUNE AS "GUEST" OF PERUVIAN AF COMMANDER. ANNOUNCEMENT MAY MEAN JUNTA MEMBERS OTHER THAN PINOCHET MAY DO MORE TRAVELLING. MORE IMPORTANTLY, VISIT OF MENDOZA TO NICARAGUA MAY REPRESENT RECOGNITION OF NICARAGUAN SUPPORT IN UN VOTE ON CHILE AND GOC EFFORT TO DEVELOP ITS TIES WITH RIGHT-WING MEMBERS OF OAS.
THOMPSON

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